



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CENTRAL LIBRARY TO SCREEN “THE LETTER: AN AMERICAN TOWN AND THE “SOMALI INVASION”**

*Film Explores Refugee Re-settlement in the United States*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will screen *The Letter: An American Town & the “Somali Invasion”* in conjunction with the ongoing One Book, One San Diego community reading campaign. The film will screen at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 7 in the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public.

Directed by filmmaker Ziad Hamzeh, this award-winning film explores what U.S. news outlets have dubbed the Somali Invasion of Lewiston, Maine - an insulated, predominantly white former mill town struggling to maintain its equilibrium in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy. A firestorm of controversy erupts when the Mayor of the town sends an open letter to newly-arrived Somali refugees. The open letter informs Somali residents that the city’s resources are strained to the limit and asks them to tell other Somalis not to move to the city, a move interpreted as racism by some and a rallying cry by white supremacist groups across the United States.

The *One Book*, campaign, sponsored with KPBS, is designed to encourage all San Diegans to read the same book at the same time, and to educate and enlighten on topics and themes of concern to the community. This year’s selection is *Outcasts United* by New York Times journalist Warren St. John. Throughout the year the San Diego Public Library, KPBS and other partner organizations will present workshops, lectures, discussion groups and TV and radio programming. For a calendar of events, visit the library catalog at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org) and click *One Book, One San Diego*.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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